BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) There are a few complaints. Disciplinary action is taken against the staff responsible.

(c) Monitoring of services through inspections, introduction of rotational menu and quality checks are made from time to time.

Zonal/Divisional Offices in South Eastern Railway

1154. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Railway Zonal Office at Bilaspur and Divisional Office at Raipur under South-Easten Railway are likely to come into existence; and

(b) whether any difficulties are being faced in starting the offices; if so, the details of action taken to clear these difficulties and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Railway Zonal Office at Bilaspur named South East Central Railway and a Divisional Office at Raipur shall be functional *w.e.f.* 01.04.2003. Notifications to this effect have already been issued.

(b) No, Sir. Action is being taken to operationalise these offices as schedule on 01.04.2003.

Unsafe rail travel for women

1155. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail travel is increasingly becoming unsafe for women;

(b) if so, the number of incidents against women on trains during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons booked for offences against women on trains during the same period; and

(d) the measures contemplated for safe travel of women on trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The maintenance of law and order and the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and Railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by

the Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, information asked for in the question is not readily available with the Ministry of Railways.

(d) 'Policing' being a subject matter of the State Government, security to passengers including female passengers is the responsibility of GRP and State Police. The Railway administration assists the GRP in escorting the lady compartments apart from manning the stations in vulnerable sections. Special squads consisting of Lady TTEs, Lady Constables/ RPF and GRP staff are existing to assist the lady passengers.

Mudkhed Adilabad Rail Line

1156. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked this year for completion of Mudkhed-Adilabad rail line; and

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) An amount of Rs. 30 crore has been allocated for the project in Budget 2002-2003.

(b) The work is expected to be completed during 2004-2005 depending upon availability of resources.

Disinvestment in RITES and IRCON

1157. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has received any proposal for disinvestment of Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) and Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For Disinvestment in RITES, recommendations of Disinvestment Commission are as under: